

What is Smart Growth?

"Growth is smart when it gives us great communities, with more choices and personal freedom, good return on public investment, greater opportunity across the community, a thriving natural environment, and a legacy we can be proud of to leave our children and grandchildren". (Smart Growth Network)



Smart Growth as promoted by the Smart Growth Network (www.smartgrowth.org) is based on the following principles:

- a. Mix land uses.
- b. Take advantage of compact building design.
- c. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices.
- d. Create walkable neighborhoods.
- e. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place.
- f. Preserve, open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas.
- g. Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities.
- h. Provide a range of transportation choices.
- i. Make development decisions, predictable, fair and cost effective.
- j. Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions.

Smart Growth principles when properly applied in a community provide a number of important benefits that can include:

- New development adds value to a community
- Cities and towns get the most return from their investment in new development.
- Residents have a variety of transportation choices – walking, biking, transit and driving – to get to convenient amenities (e.g. schools, libraries, shops and restaurants).
- A mix of housing and neighborhood types meets the needs of couples, singles, families and seniors.
- Greater opportunities for the preservation of open space.
- Development and urban growth patterns that is more sustainable than conventional development.